

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTO 05052 180512Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 MCT-01 CU-04 /081 W  
-----076886 180514Z /17

R 171931Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1640  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 5052

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, DR  
SUBJECT: BALAGUER PARDONS EIGHTY PRISONERS

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS PARDONED EIGHTY MORE PRISONERS, AMONG THEM TWO GUERRILLAS WHOSE CLANDESTINE LANDING IN 1975 SET OFF A MAJOR MANHUNT ACCOMPANIED BY WIDESPREAD ARRESTS OF LEFTISTS. STUDENT LEADER ROBERTO SANTANA WAS ALSO RELEASED. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY MOST NAMES ON LIST AND ASSUMES THEY ARE FOR THE MOST PART PERSONS CONVICTED OF COMMON CRIMES.

2. AUGUST 16 (ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE 1863-65 FIGHT FOR RESTORATION OF INDEPENDENCE) HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ONE OF THREE DATES FOR FREEING OF PRISONERS. THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION THIS YEAR ALSO CAME IN AFTERMATH OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT. UNEXPECTED HIGHLIGHT OF YESTERDAY'S ACTION WAS INCLUSION OF DOMINICAN GUERRILLAS CAAMANO GRULLON AND PENA JAQUES WHO DID NOT DENY DURING THEIR TRIAL ANY OF THE ESSENTIAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM. BOTH WERE SERVING 30-YEAR TERMS. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER PARDONED AND RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1975 THE THREE PUERTO RICANS WHO BROUGHT CAAMANO AND PENA TO THE DR.  
HURWITCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMNESTY, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANTO05052  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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